

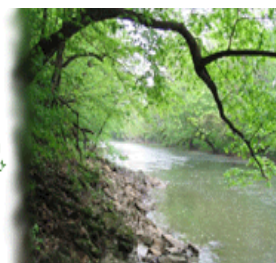


## Choose Environmental Excellence

PO Box 8368  
Springfield, MO 65802

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/showmeyards](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/showmeyards)  
[www.springfieldmo.gov/cee](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/cee)

OzarksEnvironment.com



[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

This website includes links to area agencies, clubs, and organizations offering environmental and conservation educational resources.

Postings for this website include events, volunteer opportunities, and much, much more.

To post your organization's next event, e-mail

[blucks@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:blucks@springfieldmo.gov)



### Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence Steering Committee

**Barbara Lucks**  
City of Springfield  
Solid Waste Mgt. Division  
**Kevin Gipson**  
Springfield/Greene Cty  
Health Dept.  
**Marie Steinwachs**  
Univ./ MO. Outreach  
and Extension  
**Ryan Mooney**  
Springfield Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
**Terry Whaley**  
Ozark Greenways, Inc.  
**Laurie Duncan**  
The Discovery Center  
**Chuck Kroeger**  
Aquaterra  
**Dave Fraley**  
City Utilities of Springfield  
**Dave Coonrod**  
Greene County Commission  
**Loring Bullard**  
Watershed Committee  
of the Ozarks  
**Cindy Garner**  
MO Department of Conservation  
**Francis Skalicky**  
MO Department of Conservation  
**DeDe Vest**  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
**Jon Schimpf**  
Carlisle Power Transmission  
**Joe Pitts**  
James River  
Basin Partnership  
**Becky Fay**  
University of Missouri  
Outreach and Extension  
**Tim Smith**  
Greene County  
Administrator  
**Randy Lyman**  
City of Springfield  
Sanitary Services  
**Robert Hamilton**  
Solid Waste Management  
District "O"  
**Doug Neidigh**  
Ozarks Center for Sustainable  
Solutions - Drury  
**Ann Hall**  
**Gary Deaver**  
**Rena Bass**  
**Lynn Feagan**



## Choose Environmental Excellence 2010 Awards Presented

The Tenth Annual Springfield/Greene County *Choose Environmental Excellence* awards were presented, Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at a luncheon at the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, as a part of Springfield's Earth Day festivities. Awards were presented by eight organizations.

**The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks** recognized Sue Dyle, Rebecca Zigler, and Misty Mitchell for their dedication to the Wonders of the Outdoors Learning Facility -- WOLF School. The WOLF School is an innovative learning opportunity for Springfield 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The WOLF Mission is: to achieve academic excellence through a rigorous core academic program, in the context of the outdoors and conservation science, which instills a sense of integrity and respect of the natural world. The WOLF Vision is: to create and utilize extensive and intentionally designed expeditionary learning experiences as meaningful extensions of the classroom. Misty Mitchell was instrumental in helping establish the program and continually provides support to the teachers professionally at Wonders of Wildlife, and personally. The teachers, Sue Dyle and Rebecca Zigler, are dedicated, creative and innovative teachers who stepped onto the job with the added task of developing a curriculum nearly from scratch. The teachers make the most of the special opportunities the WOLF School provides. We are, indeed, fortunate to be one of the very few communities in the country that receives the benefit of a school program like the WOLF School. Loring Bullard, Executive Director, presented the award.

**Solid Waste Management District "O" Executive Board** recognized two recipients for the 2010 District "O" Environmental Service Award. This year, they wanted to recognize support and assistance given to District "O" recycling centers by helping those centers provide recycling drop-off services to the 23 cities in their service region of Christian, Dallas, Polk, Webster and Greene Counties. Greenway Recycling, with businesses in Fordland and Springfield, and Fiber Management in Republic, deserve this award equally. These two large recycling processors serve as markets for recycling drop-off centers, giving area municipalities a reliable outlet for the recyclable materials they collect. Jim VonBehren, the owner of Greenway and Rod Triplett, owner of Fiber Management, go out of their way to insure those markets are always available, sometimes at no profit to their businesses. Additionally, for the more than eleven years Jim has owned Greenway, he has devoted valuable floor space inside his Fordland facility to serve as a recycling drop-off center for Fordland. Employees take time away from business to assist citizens in unloading and drop off, which is often a very small amount of material. Rod opened Fiber Management six years ago. He furnished land for the City of Republic to build a fenced recycling drop-off center. Rod's employees staff the center five days a week, taking time away from their duties to provide this service, thereby saving the City of Republic the expense of staffing the center. Greene County Administrator and Solid Waste Management District "O" Chair, Tim Smith presented the award.

**The Springfield/Greene County Environmental Advisory Board** recognized City of Springfield Mayor Pro-tem Dan Chiles as the recipient of their Board's Environmental Excellence Award.

See Awards, page 2

Springfield-Greene County Choose Environmental Excellence—417-864-2006  
P.O. Box 8368—Springfield—MO—65801—[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

Continued from Awards...

Council member Chiles has served Springfield as a strong and courageous voice for the environment for decades, as an innovative businessman, a member and chair of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, as a member of the City Utilities of Springfield Board of Directors, a founding member of the Ozarks New Energy, Inc., and, most recently, for three years, as a City of Springfield councilmember and Mayor Pro-tem.

Dan has been a champion for clean water, smart growth, sustainable and local agriculture and clean and renewable energy. Without apology, he has spoken out about the City's responsibility to address climate change, and to protect water supplies from pollutants such as PAHs from coal tar sealants on parking lots, even when those topics were controversial. On this last issue, Mr. Chiles has directly supported the n-depth work of the Environmental Advisory Board and has been the Board's advocate to the Springfield City Council in EAB's efforts to promote a ban on coal tar sealants. EAB recognizes the value of having well-informed, credible and courageous voices like Mr. Chiles in policy-making positions, who will evaluate all decisions through the lens of the triple bottom line of environmental responsibility, economic viability and social justice. Board Chair, Mike Kromrey, presented the award.

**The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance** recognized Springfield Public Schools, Rogersville Schools and Natasha Longpine with their first annual Environmental Excellence awards for outstanding leadership in environmental stewardship for air quality.

In 2009, the Alliance released the Clean Air Action Plan that included specific strategies to reduce the harmful emissions from vehicle exhaust. Their award winners are leaders in collaboration and innovation, bringing new technologies into our region that are making tremendous impacts on the health and well being of our citizens.

As children, we found some of our first role models within our school system. Today they continued that tradition as they recognized two school districts who model environmental excellence. Logan-Rogersville and Springfield Public Schools are making a difference everyday for the students who ride the bus. Together, these school districts retrofitted 55 buses with new engine technologies to reduce diesel emissions, helping nearly 3,300 small riders breathe easier.

Their next award went to one of their most dedicated members, Natasha Longpine. Natasha is a planner with the Ozarks Transportation Organization and has made her mark on the region through the launch of OzarksCommute.com. This web based rideshare program provides the region with opportunities to reduce the number of vehicles on the road

and pollution in the atmosphere from vehicles. Doug Neidigh, Executive Director of Drury University's Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions presented the award.

**The City of Springfield's Tree City USA Citizen's Advisory Committee** recognized Abbe Ehlers for her leadership and dedication through many years of service on the Committee. Abbe was appointed to the Committee in 2003 and served until 2009, being Chair from 2005 – 2009. She has the longest standing service record of the Committee to date with having logged conservatively over 250 hours of volunteer service. The list of accomplishments during her tenure is long and impressive and includes:

- Multiple successes in grant funding for tree-related projects
- Presentations to City Council regarding the need for support and additional funding for Springfield's urban forest
- Coordination of special events including tree pruning workshops, award ceremonies, neighborhood tree plantings and many others – including the continuation of the NeighborWoods Program
- Outstanding service and efforts during and following the devastating 2007 Ice Storm during which tens of thousands of Springfield's trees were destroyed or damaged – Abbe served on the Disaster Response Action Committee, which served in an oversight capacity to review responses to the storm
- The completion and publishing of the award-winning "The Heart of the Tree" educational resource book.
- Abbe's dedication has helped the City of Springfield earn the Tree City USA designation during her term and played a role in the successful public election in 2006 which included dedicated funds for tree maintenance

While Abbe would humbly attribute these and other successes to being a part of a group effort, and for which they no doubt are, it has been Abbe's vision and passion that has been the primary catalyst in seeing these accomplishments through to fruition. She has dedicated herself to ensuring the silent partners of Springfield's urban and community forest have a voice. Bridget Dierks, Committee Chair, presented the award.

**The Partnership for Sustainability** recognized BKD, LLP with their first Environmental Excellence Award, recognizing a business whose efforts toward environmental stewardship serves as a model for business and industry. BKD, LLP, is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest CPA and advisory firm in the US and is thoroughly committed to the environment. They moved into their new location in the fall of 2009 – a Silver level LEED certified building featuring low-emission vehicle parking spaces, low-flow plumbing fixtures, energy efficient heating and air systems, water efficient landscaping, a white roof designed to reduce urban heat, motion sensitive lights and internal recycling collection sites of plastic, aluminum, toner

Continue next column...

## Recycling and Reducing Waste at Home



### Easy Steps to Help you Go Green

#### *Eating Out????*

A very easy first step.... Take a doggie bag when going out to eat at restaurants or fast food places. Refrigerate leftovers so that you can eat them at a later date, and they will still retain their freshness. When preparing food at home, use re-usable storage containers to refrigerate leftovers.

#### *Yard and Kitchen Waste....*

Start a compost pile in your garden. This will help to reduce your household waste by recycling your organic material. This can include items ranging from newspapers to lawn clippings. Eventually you'll have rich compost to add to your garden. Or, start a vermicomposting bin in the kitchen. This will also help to reduce your organic household waste, such as kitchen scraps and newspapers. To request information on composting or vermicomposting, call the Recycling Hotline at 417-864-1904.

#### *Household Chemicals....*

Dispose of chemicals such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients with special care. These hazardous waste materials cannot be simply disposed of by pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The City of Springfield's Household Chemical Collection Center accepts these types of products and is a free service to Greene County Residents. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Recycling Hotline at 417-864-1904 or visit our websites at:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling) or  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

#### *Recycling at Home....*

1. Find out what kinds/types of materials your local recycling center and/or curbside recycler accepts. For Springfield and surrounding, call the recycling hotline at 417-864-1904 or visit our websites at:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling) or  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

2. Select your container. You can use containers you may already have or you may want to purchase a number of tough plastic bins so you can sort your recyclable

materials. When recycling at your local recycling centers, your materials will need to be separated. If using a curbside recycling service, check with your hauler to see if they require separation also. Some curbside services are now offering single stream/commingled recycling which does not require separation of recyclables. Containers are frequently furnished by curbside service providers.

#### *Re-Use....*

Reuse what you can. Re-usable items are the most environmentally friendly choices when purchasing items such as water bottles, lunch bags, kitchen items and more.

#### *"A Guide to Recycling in Springfield"....*

For a listing of over 120 locations that accept a wide variety of materials, call the Recycling Hotline to request a hard copy or visit:

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling) or  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

#### *Buy Recycled....*

Buy Recycled....When purchasing items, look for recycled content products. For example, when purchasing that next box of snacks, check to see if that box is made from recycled paper or other recycled contents and how much. Many high-quality construction materials are now available made from recycled materials.



**For more information or for a copy of the  
City of Springfield's  
"Guide to Recycling in Springfield",  
call the Recycling Hotline at  
417-864-1904 or visit:**

[www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/recycling)  
[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)



## Natural Definitions

Today, many products are available with environmentally responsible ingredients. For example, here are a few definitions related to SC Johnson's Nature's Source™ products.



### Biodegradable

A biodegradable material is one that will break down and decompose into elements found in nature when it is exposed to air, moisture and bacteria or other organisms\*.

\*Definition from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).



### Corn-Based Ethanol

Corn-based ethanol is produced from the fermentation of cornstarch into alcohol. It helps our Natural Glass & Surface Cleaner quickly dry to a streak-free shine.



### Lactic Acid

Lactic acid is produced from the breakdown of natural sugars in fruits, vegetables and a variety of other sources. It also happens to be amazing at removing hard-water deposits.



### Natural

Ingredients are "natural" if they are:

- sourced from plant, or microbial sources
- made with processing that does not change them chemically

Examples of such processing could include, but are not limited to, cold pressing, dehydration/desiccation, evaporation, filtering, grinding, solvent extraction and steam distillation.



### Naturally Derived

Ingredients may be considered "naturally derived" if they are:

- derived from natural plant or microbial sources
- processed with other natural substances, such that they undergo a non-significant chemical change



### Plant-Based

Plant-based means the ingredients come from fruits, vegetables and grains as well as trees, herbs and other types of plants.



### Plant-Based Cleaning Agents

Plant-based cleaning agents are derived from natural substances such as coconut oil or palm-kernel oil. These agents work hard to remove dirt, soil and grime.



### Purified Water

Water that has had minerals and other impurities removed. These impurities could interfere with the performance of our products.



### Xanthan Gum

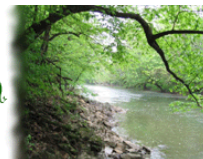
Xanthan gum is a thickening agent made from the fermentation of natural sugars. It helps our Natural Toilet Bowl Cleaner cling to surfaces, allowing it to work longer so it can dissolve limescale and attack stains.

For more information, visit Sc Johnson's website at:

[www.naturessourcecleaners.com](http://www.naturessourcecleaners.com)

## Post Your Event

OzarksEnvironment.com



To post your upcoming events, e-mail Barbara Lucks at [blucks@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:blucks@springfieldmo.gov).

A complete schedule of 2009 Earth Day Activities is now available at:

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)



Continued from Awards...

cartridges and paper. In addition, they are shifting into a paperless operating environment. Employee participation is another key component to the success of the Company.

BKD's Green Team has been a key factor in the ongoing and continued success of their sustainability efforts. BKD has office recycling programs and information posted in all of their public information areas. They have set measurable goals for 2010 to further increase recycling and reduce waste generation. Ceramic dishes and stainless flatware reduce disposable paper and plastic goods. BKD is the first business in the Ozarks to achieve the Green Level from Ozarks GreenScore. This is the highest ranking designation. John Wanamaker, Managing Partner, BKD, LLP accepted the award. Michael Garner, who is also President, UMB Bank, presented the award.

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society recognized Charles Burwick as the recipient of their 2010 Conservation Environmental Excellence award. He has devoted countless hours as a volunteer in various environmental organizations, having served as President of both Audubon Missouri and of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society.

Charley has been a volunteer at the Springfield Nature Center since 1994, and received recognition in 2009 for 5000 hours as a volunteer naturalist. He has been very active with the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society serving on the board and as the Bird Recorder, the Field Trip Chair, Vice President, President and Past President. During that same time Charley was also President of Audubon Missouri and served on that Board of Trustees. He was on the steering committee that established the Springfield Plateau Master Naturalist organization, and now serves on the executive committee of that organization.

Charley received the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award from the Conservation Federation of Missouri in 2009. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in conservation activity. He is on the steering committee of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative.

Charley has been actively involved with the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center in Joplin. He participates informally in the Ozarks Friends of the Environment, in the Watershed Center meetings, and the Grasslands Coalition meetings. Charley is a member of National Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. In his spare time Charley is an avid bird watcher and golfer. Nature is his passion. Lisa Berger, Vice President of Audubon Missouri Board of Trustees, Past President and current Board Member of the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society as well as owner/operator of Consulting Analytical Services presented the award.

The Community Partnership of the Ozarks Environmental Collaborative was pleased to join the other organizations represented to be a part of the celebration of good work. In their second year, the Collaborative recognized Doug Neidigh, Executive Director of the Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solutions at Drury University.

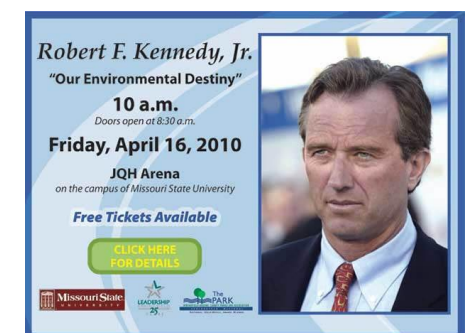
Doug developed a new approach to sustainability through the creation of Ozarks Center for Sustainable Solution at Drury University. The OCSS provides professional technical assistance and research to businesses and organizations to reduce waste, conserve resources, and save money. But this is not how they came to know Doug so well.

Doug has blazed a trail in our region as one of the founding members of the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a co-creator of the Ozarks GreenScore project along with Choose Environmental Excellence, the Partnership for Sustainability, Drury Students in Free Enterprise. He partnered with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for diesel retrofit projects that, to date, have brought nearly 1 million dollars to businesses and school districts in a 15 county area in Southwest Missouri. Michelle Garand with Community Partnership of the Ozarks presented the award.

For a listing of current and previous Choose Environmental Excellence Awards, visit:

[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)

## Robert F. Kennedy, JR. Visits Springfield



Environmental business leader and advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spoke on "Our Environmental Destiny" at a free, public event on Friday, April 16, 2010 at John Q. Hammons (JQH) Arena on the campus of Missouri State University. The visit was part of a collaborative effort by MSU, Leadership Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

For more information, visit the Springfield/Greene County Park Board website at:

[www.parkboard.org](http://www.parkboard.org)



## Habitat for Humanity's Legacy Trails Update



Phase one construction of 24 homes at Legacy Trails, Habitat for Humanity of Springfield's Low Impact Development, was completed in December 2009. Phase two infrastructure will commence this summer. Legacy Trails will be home to 55 partnering families and incorporates the efforts of 20 community organizations. HFHS presented the Legacy Trails Landscape Committee with a 2009 Golden Hammer Award at their Annual Meeting & Recognition Lunch. The award recognizes outstanding supporters who made Habitat's progress possible during this very difficult economic year. The Landscape Committee, Greene County, and hundreds of Habitat volunteers implemented phase one plantings, improved the walking trail and educated families about native plants and environmentally-conscious lawn and landscape practices.

HFHS received a \$5000 grant from the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (special thanks to Tricia Radford, MDC) which was used to construct rain gardens for residents at Legacy Trails, purchase native plants and seeds, produce native plant signage, purchase educational materials (books, videos, DVDs) for residents, buy tools and supplies for landscape volunteers, greenhouse supplies, 2 plastic rain barrels and 3 recycled plastic benches for the walking trail.

For more information on Legacy Trails or Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, visit their website at:

[www.habitatspringfieldmo.org](http://www.habitatspringfieldmo.org)



Rain Garden installation  
at Legacy Trails

## Bike, Bus, Walk Week May 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>



Ozark Greenways will host the 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Bike, Bus, Walk to Work Week" event to challenge Springfield area residents to get to work or school at least one day during that week without a car. Whether it's riding a bike, taking public transportation, walking, carpooling, telecommuting or any combination of these – their goal is to highlight current alternative transportation options in Springfield and especially support future expansion.

The challenge kicks off with Bikefest from 6-9pm, Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> in Springfield Public Square, celebrating May Bike Month. They encourage everyone to come via bike or bus. There will be bike parking, live music, art bikes, information about alternative transportation – and Andy's Frozen Custard will give free custard to the first 100 people! Other highlights of the May 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> week long challenge includes:

- \*Voucher for a FREE breakfast at Panera Bread to everyone who participates at least one day that week! (bagel & coffee)
- \*City Utilities will give free city bus rides all week for those traveling with a bike.
- \*Free use of showers/towels at the YMCA's and all Cox Fitness Centers
- \*Chance to win cool Ozark Greenways ballcaps
- \*Feeling good about helping create a bike/pedestrians friendly Springfield. Keep doing it.
- \*Current alternative transportation infrastructure in Springfield includes: greenway trails, on-street bike route system and City Buses that all have bike racks on the front
- \*They will even plan your commute route, call (417) 864-2015

For those wishing to take the annual challenge and show support for our community's expanded infrastructure for alternative transportation, they should register online representing their workplace or school or call (417) 864-2015. To register online visit Ozark Greenways website at:

[www.ozarkgreenways.org](http://www.ozarkgreenways.org)



## News from the City of Springfield Public Works Department Solid Waste Management Division



Sara Garretson has been hired as the Division's first Market Development Specialist. Her duties will include:

- Identifying/developing markets for recyclables through:
  - Product supply development--increasing the quantity and quality of existing items recycled as well as the variety of items recycled.
  - Positioning Springfield as a recognized source of reliable, high-quality raw materials to manufacturers or end-users.
- Working with the City's Economic Development staff and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce to target, attract and encourage businesses who utilize recyclables in their production.
- Ozarks GreenScore Program
  - Working with Ozarks GreenScore partners to provide technical assistance to businesses in establishing waste reduction/recycling programs.

For more information, feel free to contact Sara Garretson at: 417-864-2003 or e-mail Sara at:

[sgarretson@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:sgarretson@springfieldmo.gov)

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### Earth Day Tip:

*Reuse old plastic bags or bring a cloth bag.  
Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide.  
That comes out to over one million per minute.  
Billions end up as litter each year.*

## Ozarks GreenScore Update



The mission of the Ozarks GreenScore is to educate, motivate and assist area businesses and organizations in adopting environmentally sustainable practices. GreenScore worksheets are a tool to quantitatively assess the organizations' performance on key criteria such as waste management, energy management, policy management, etc. Organizations are recognized as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Green members based on their performance. Informational resources and technical assistance is available through the program to assist organizations in completing the worksheet, as well as, identifying and implementing additional opportunities to reduce waste and save money.

Ozarks GreenScore is for any organization that is interested in proactively protecting the environment, reducing operational costs and becoming a model for other organizations.

The following businesses are already members:

### Green Level Members:

BKD, LLP - CPA's and Advisors



### Silver Level Members:

Discovery Center of Springfield  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce



### Bronze Level Members:

DeWitt & Associates, Inc  
Stamina Products, Inc.



For more information regarding the Ozarks GreenScore Program, log onto:

[Welcome - Ozarks Greenscore](http://www.ozarksgreenscore.org)

*Ozarks GreenScore program presented by:*



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P.O. Box 8368—Springfield—MO—65801—[www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com)



## Tree City USA Celebrates Missouri Arbor Day



Springfield's Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee celebrated Missouri Arbor Day with a series of activities and a ceremonial tree planting on Friday, April 2, 2010, at the Mediacom Ice Park East Plaza.

The event included an award presentation, kids' activities, recognition of poster-contest winners, release of an award-winning publication, and the roll out of a new effort highlighting the value of trees in our community.

To celebrate Missouri Arbor Day, the Jarrett Middle School 8th Grade choir, under the direction of Linda Christenson, sang "Trees for America", an original selection written for Arbor Day.

The City of Springfield received its 25th consecutive Tree City, USA designation and City Utilities of Springfield received its 16th consecutive Tree Line, USA designation during the event. Tim Stanton, Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Forestry Supervisor presented the awards.

The 12 finalist entries for the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest were on display for the event and a tree will be planted at the appropriate time at each of the finalists' schools to commemorate the accomplishment.

Abbe Ehlers, their former Chair of the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee, was recognized for her long-time service and her recent recognition as a Top Ten Volunteer of the Year by the Alliance for Community Trees.

The Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee also rolled out its new "Tree Tag Project" to raise awareness of the value of various sizes and species of trees represented by tags with dollar values placed on trees throughout the community. Funding for the Tree Tag Project is being provided by a Missouri Department of Conservation grant supporting urban forest preservation and education efforts.

Activities related to trees and tree care were available for children, as well as educational handouts, including the Committee's newly released booklet "The Heart of a Tree". The publication recently earned the Author's Award of Excellence from the Midwestern chapter of the International Society of Arborists.

Earlier in the day, the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory

continue next column.....

Committee planted a tree near the Greenway Trail in Jordan Valley Park. For more information, contact: Joe Payne, Public Works Operations Supervisor over Public Grounds, 864-1954 or Benjamin Kellner at 417-864-1178.

## 2010 Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Announcement



Tammy Nguyen, Pershing Elementary School fifth grade student, is the overall citywide winner of the 2010 Springfield Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest. She joins 11 other students who were recognized in the annual contest. More than 400 fifth-grade students from Springfield area schools participated this year.

The winning poster was selected by local tree experts, the Missouri Community Forestry Council, and the Springfield Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee. The local contest is part of the National Arbor Day Foundation's national competition. The contest asked students to create a poster reflecting the theme "Trees are Terrific... and Energy Wise!"

As the citywide first place winner, Tammy will receive a gift from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and a framed certificate from Springfield City Council and the Tree City USA Citizens Advisory Committee. A tree will also be planted at Pershing School in honor of Tammy and her teacher, Deborah Hostetler. The tree will be planted by Springfield Public Schools and Springfield Public Works Department. The tree will be listed in the Springfield Tree Registry as the "Nguyen/Hostetler Chinquapin Oak."

All 12 winning students were honored at a special ceremony at 5 p.m., Friday, April 2, at Jordan Valley Park. For more information on the Springfield Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest, please call the Springfield Public Works Urban Forestry Office at (417) 864-1135. For more information about the National Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest, please visit the National Arbor Day Foundation's Web site at:

<http://www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/index.cfm>.

Tammy's winning Poster



## EPA Accepting Applications for National Environmental Education Training Program



WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications to help manage the National Environmental Education Training Program over the next five years. EPA will award one cooperative agreement, worth approximately \$10 million over five years, which will provide teachers and other education professionals with resources and support to enable them to teach about environmental issues more effectively. EPA will accept applications until July 26, 2010. Applications must be e-mailed to U.S. EPA at:

[EnvEdTraining@epa.gov](mailto:EnvEdTraining@epa.gov)

Applications must be received no later than 11:59pm EDT July 26, 2010 as described in Section IV. EPA will reply to applicants by e-mail that their e-mailed application has been received.

The purpose of the national training program is to provide environmental education training and long-term support to teachers and other education professionals across the United States. Institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations in the United States are eligible to apply. EPA encourages these institutions to form broad-based partnerships when applying for this program that includes partners, such as Minority Academic Institutions, that represent the demographic diversity of the United States.

EPA believes that a broad-based consortium that builds on existing national environmental education resources and programs is the best way to successfully deliver quality training and support to K-12 teachers, faculty at colleges and universities and non-formal educators across the United States.

More information about application process for the National Environmental Education Training Program, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/education/educate/solicitation.html>

Enesta Jones (**MEDIA ONLY**)

jones.enesta@epa.gov  
202-564-7873  
202-564-4355

Kathleen MacKinnon (**PUBLIC INQUIRIES**)

EnvEdTraining@epa.gov  
202-564-0451

## Outdoor Initiatives Announces 2010 Cave Tours and Activities



### GIBONEY CAVE OUTDOOR – UNDERGROUND CLASSROOM TOURS

Explore Springfield's historical Giboney Cave learning its myths, facts, & history. Shoes may get muddy and wet on Walking Tour; you will get very muddy & wet on Tunnel Tours. All tours subject to bats, weather, & "WNS".

### FREE PRESENTATIONS

#### *Artifacts & Fossils Presentation*

Basic American Artifacts; Basic Missouri Fossils.

Giboney Cave Outdoor – Underground Classroom, Doling Park, 301 E Talmage St / 2600 N. Campbell, Springfield.

#### *Bat Awareness Presentation*

Basic Bat Awareness.

Giboney Cave, Doling Park, 301 E Talmage St / 2600 N. Campbell, Springfield.

### SEQUIOTA PARK'S FISHER CAVE CLOSED FOR SEASON

The Federal Endangered Gray Bat Migration is currently under way at Sequiota Park's Fisher Cave, with the cave being closed for 2010. Summer colonies form in warm caves with water and/or lakes nearby. During the spring – summer – fall of 2009 there were three colonies of Gray Bats within Fisher Cave for an estimated total of 3,000 to 5,000 Gray Bats. The Gray Bat population has increased at Fisher Cave due in part to continued protection of the cave by the Springfield – Greene County Park Board and its partners in Bat and Caving Education– Recreation. The summer colonies of Gray Bats are highly vulnerable to disturbance; thus, a reason in itself for closing the cave at the start of the migration.

For more information on schedules, closings, guidelines, group information and more, feel free to contact:

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